

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 1700

Application No. 09/777,603

Paper Dated: April 7, 2005

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of February 7, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 3576-010027

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-35 (Cancelled).

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): In a process for purifying water comprising passing an aqueous system containing impurities through a bed of activated carbon composition, adsorbing the impurities onto the activated carbon composition and producing purified water, the improvement comprising controlling a difference in pH between the aqueous system containing impurities and the purified water to be less than 1 pH unit by using an activated carbon composition consisting essentially of activated carbon and a ~~carboxylic~~citric acid ~~containing compound~~ and optionally water.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A process as in claim 36, wherein the ~~carboxylic~~citric acid ~~containing compound~~ is present in the activated carbon composition in an amount of from 0.01 to 5 percent by weight based on the dry weight of activated carbon.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): A process as in claim 36, wherein the activated carbon is derived from one or more selected from the group consisting of bituminous coal, anthracite, lignite, wood, peat, coconut shells, and synthetic polymers.

Claims 39-41 (Cancelled).

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A process as in claim 36, wherein the activated carbon composition is prepared by soaking the activated carbon in a solution containing the ~~carboxylic acid containing compound~~citric acid.

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Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A process as in claim 36, wherein the ~~carboxylic~~citric acid ~~containing compound~~ occupies the high energy adsorption sites of the activated carbon.

Claim 44 (Cancelled).

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): A method of controlling the pH of water purified by contact with activated carbon during a start-up phase of a water treatment process comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a bed of an activated carbon composition; and
- b) starting a flow of an aqueous system containing impurities into the bed of activated carbon composition and a flow of purified water out of the bed, wherein a difference in pH between the aqueous system and the purified water is maintained at less than 1 pH unit during a start-up phase by using an activated carbon composition consisting essentially of activated carbon and a ~~carboxylic~~citric acid ~~containing compound~~ and optionally water.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): A method as in claim 45, wherein the ~~carboxylic~~citric acid ~~containing compound~~ is present in the activated carbon composition in an amount of from 0.01 to 5 percent by weight based on the dry weight of activated carbon.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 45, wherein the activated carbon is derived from one or more selected from the group consisting of bituminous coal, anthracite, lignite, wood, peat, coconut shells, and synthetic polymers.

Claims 48-50 (Cancelled).

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Claim 51 (Currently Amended): A method as in claim 45, wherein the activated carbon composition is prepared by soaking the activated carbon in a solution containing the ~~carboxylic~~citric acid-containing compound.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): A method as in claim 45, wherein the ~~carboxylic~~citric acid ~~containing compound~~ occupies the high energy adsorption sites of the activated carbon.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): A method as in claim 45, wherein the activated carbon composition is dry at start-up of the water treatment process.